

Quarterly Issues Report  
WLFI-TV  
Fourth Quarter, 2009

## Agriculture and Business

Tippecanoe County received a major piece of good news early in the Third Quarter as the Germany-based specialty chemical maker Evonik announced plans to acquire Eli Lilly's Tippecanoe Laboratories in October. WLFI coverage of the announcement included interviews with Lilly and Evonik executives, and a two-part report on Evonik's facilities in Mobile, Alabama. The series included a look at the company's stamp on Mobile-area non-profits and its effect on the community at large.

A Purdue University professor accepted the prestigious World Food Prize during the Third Quarter. Food Science Professor Gebisa Ejeta received the prize for his work on the development of foods suitable for growing in arid climates.

WLFI also reported on the loss of dozens of part-time jobs, with the closing of the TeleServices Direct call center in Lafayette. It also profiled Wildcat Creek Winery, a locally-owned business in operation for less than a year which is thriving in the current economy, and won a Governor's prize for economic development during the Third Quarter.

## **October 14, 2009**

Eli Lilly and Company is selling its Tippecanoe Laboratories plant in Shadeland to a German specialty chemicals company.

The new owner will be Evonik Industries, and the plant will remain in operation, continuing to make drug components for Lilly, under a nine-year supply and services agreement.

Approximately 700 current Lilly employees will be offered employment with Evonik. Those are all the full-time non-contracted workers dedicated to the site. Lilly also expects to pay 38 million dollars in cash in severance-related charges through next year.

Lilly's chairman and C-E-O says today's announcement represents a positive outcome for employees at the site, the Lafayette community, and Lilly.

## **October 15, 2009**

It's considered the Nobel Prize of agriculture.

The World Food Prize was presented to a Purdue Professor during a ceremony last night in Des Moines, Iowa.

## **December 1, 2009**

Some of the world's top biofuels researchers are meeting at Purdue to discuss the future of renewable fuels.

Today's conference will look at the challenges and opportunities for agriculture in the biofuels industry.

## **December 3, 2009**

A Lafayette call center is closing at the end of the year.

TeleServices Direct spokesman Steve Lair says the company recently suffered a "big loss in business," and will consolidate the Lafayette center's operations into other facilities.

Lair says TeleServices has 188 employees in Lafayette.

All but 16 are part-time.

TeleServices' Lafayette operations will be taken over by call centers in Greenwood, Evansville, and Bowling Green, Kentucky.

## **December 26, 2009**

In this tough economic climate, many small businesses are shutting their doors.  
But one local business is weathering the storm.

Kathy and Rick Black opened the Wildcat Creek Winery just over a year ago.  
The business has grown steadily over the past twelve months.

The Blacks say the winery attracts local customers as well as tourists just passing through town.

## **December 30, 2009**

Indiana National Guard soldiers -- trained at Purdue and I-U to support agriculture in Afghanistan -- have been welcomed home.

Julie Krizen takes us to their homecoming and shows us how they are helping farmers overseas.

## Crime

In October, police in Montgomery County arrested Chad Byrd for the shotgun killing of his brother. Byrd had previously been tried for his involvement in the death of the New Richmond Town Marshal.

In Fountain County, Samantha Light was sentenced to 125 years in prison for her role in the videotaped molestation of three children left in her care. A co-defendant, Stephen Quick, awaits trial in the case. After Light's sentencing, police in Frankfort re-opened a nine year old investigation into whether Quick molested children there.

Steven Farrell was arrested in December, two weeks after allegedly shooting his fiancé to death in Benton County. Farrell is fighting extradition to Indiana.

During the fourth quarter of 2009, WLFI featured 14 fugitives sought by the Lafayette Police Department. Six of those were arrested during the quarter.

### **October 13, 2009**

A Montgomery County man is charged with murder and voluntary manslaughter in the death of his brother.

23-year old Chad Byrd is accused of killing Jacob Byrd Monday with a 20-gauge shotgun at their parents' house near New Richmond.

### **December 3, 2009**

It's one down, one to go for the families of molested children in Fountain County.

Wednesday Samantha Light was sentenced to 125 years for molesting young children -- and capturing the whole thing on video.

### **December 17, 2009**

A Benton County murder suspect appeared before a judge today in Las Vegas. The judge says Indiana authorities have 90 days to get a Governor's warrant to force Steven Farrell back to Tippecanoe County. Farrell is fighting extradition.

Farrell is accused in the November 27th shooting death of Christine Craig on a rural road near Otterbein.

## DIVERSITY

WLFI profiled efforts by the Purdue University Office of Supplier Diversity Development to help minority and women-owned businesses network with clients by interviewing the office's director during the Public Affairs interview on November 6, 2009.

The station featured efforts by Purdue University's School of Technology to spark an interest in that field among minority and female students.

In October, the station covered Durga Puja, where local Hindus celebrated an annual religious holiday.

### **November 6, 2009**

Purdue's office of Supplier Diversity Development is holding its fifth annual event to help minority and women-owned businesses to network with clients.

Jesse Moore is director of the Office of Supplier Diversity Development at Purdue, and he joins us in the studio with details.

### **November 7, 2009**

The annual Wow IT! program, aims to help girls find an interest in technology related fields.

Diversity Director in the Technology College Toni Munguia says the program started about 5 years ago.

Young women in High School participated in hands on experiments with manufacturing engineering, industrial technology and computer graphics technology.

### **October 3, 2009**

The Indian community gathered to celebrate Durga Puja .

Videographer Jamie Long takes us there.



## EDUCATION

Budgets continued tightening for public school corporations and higher education institutions during the fourth quarter. Late in the quarter, Governor Mitch Daniels ordered nearly \$300 million dollars in cuts to K-12 education. The Tippecanoe School Corporation's finance director reported that corporation might have to cut staff to meet the new budget numbers.

Higher education also struggled with finances during the quarter. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education ordered Purdue University to make additional cuts of more than \$45 million dollars during the quarter. The university held a forum involving students, faculty, and staff to come up with a strategy for making those cuts.

The West Lafayette Community School Corporation will ask citizens to support a tax increase to continue funding schools. During the quarter, the corporation's board voted to hold a referendum in May that could raise property taxes 43 cents per hundred dollars assessed valuation.

## **December 28, 2009**

Originally school corporations were going to be making cuts over an 18 month period.

Now they will have to figure out a way to cut their budgets in 12 months.

Tippecanoe School Corporation Financial Officer Kim Fox says TSC already made reductions last year.

But now will have to find ways to cut their budget even more.

They will have to cut 3.5 percent from their 68-69 million dollars they receive from the state.

That would be 2.1 to 2.4 million dollars in cuts.

Fox says TSC probably will cut jobs.

"I don't know how you can cut those dollar amounts without seriously looking at your staff and your benefits," Fox said.

## **December 23, 2009**

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has decided Purdue University should reduce expenditures by 45-and-a-half million dollars by 2011.

Purdue was already aiming to cut 30 million, but the commission is asking for larger cuts for Purdue and I-U.

## **December 3, 2009**

The West Lafayette School Board will proceed with a tax referendum to help support operating expenses.

The referendum would give the West Lafayette School district a maximum of about 3-point-5 million dollars each year during a 7 year period.

The property tax rate could increase 43 cents per 100 dollars.

## HEALTHCARE

The H1N1 virus continued to dominate healthcare coverage during the fourth quarter. WLFI interviewed Tippecanoe County's Health Officer, Doctor Michael Bohlin, hosted two interactive internet seminars with Dr. Bohlin and Health Department Administrator Ron Cripe, and told viewers where they could receive H1N1 vaccinations and who target populations included.

The station also updated construction of Tippecanoe County's newest hospital, St. Elizabeth East, as it prepares to open during the first quarter of 2010. Major construction ended during the fourth quarter, with plans to open the facility in February, 2010.

## **October 23, 2009**

Tippecanoe County health officials are clarifying where people can receive the H1N1 Vaccine.

County Health Officer Doctor Michael Bohlin says people should visit their primary care physician to receive the vaccine.

He says the Health Department would one day like to hold an H1N1 vaccination clinic... but right now there isn't enough vaccine to go around.

## **December 1, 2009**

Purdue is offering H-1-N-1 vaccines for people under the age of 25 - and anyone who falls into other high-risk categories.

Students, faculty, staff, retirees and their spouses are all eligible.

Purdue got an additional 89-hundred doses of the vaccine from The Tippecanoe County Health Department.

## **December 14, 2009**

To learn more about the H1-N1 virus in Tippecanoe County you can log onto our web site this afternoon.

County Health Officer Michael Bohlin (BOW-linn) and Administrator Ron Cripe will take your questions and answer them during a live web stream.

To watch the live feed and submit questions about H1-N1, go to WLF1.com and click on the banner at the top of the home page.

The live question and answer session will run from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## **December 18, 2009**

St. Elizabeth prepares to open. New equipment, beds and chairs are being placed inside the hospital.

It's a little more than two months before the patient transition day of February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Vice President of Plant operations Tom Peck says construction finished in November and workers are now putting on the finishing touches.

### **November 6, 2009**

The Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor will be open to traffic sooner than originally expected. Adam Hall shows us how INDOT project engineers hope to push that date up even further.

### **November 17, 2009**

Eastern Tippecanoe County gets an update on the Hoosier Heartland Corridor. A new bridge will help traffic flow more smoothly through the area. Niccole Caan has more.

### **December 10, 2009**

Segment four of the Hoosier Heartland or State Road 25 project in Cass County is beginning its first stage soon. INDOT hosted a meeting tonight in Logansport to update community about the project's schedule.

### **October 21, 2009**

The bids on Tippecanoe County's first local stimulus roadway project came in at almost half the estimated cost.

The construction cost to repave Salisbury Street in West Lafayette from Wiggins to Robinson was estimated at about 450-thousand dollars.

### **December 16, 2009**

Tippecanoe County will get almost an extra million dollars in road projects.

Bids for the original nine resurfacing and traffic signal coordination projects paid for by stimulus funds came in lower than anticipated.

The savings freed up money for contingency projects.